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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/725,038	12/02/2003	Gunter Rehra	202-115	4696
7590	05/28/2004			
Walter Ottesen Patent Attorney P.O. Box 4026 Gaithersburg, MD 20885-4026			EXAMINER BUTLER, DOUGLAS C	
			ART UNIT 3683	PAPER NUMBER
DATE MAILED: 05/28/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/725,038

Applicant(s)

REHRA ET AL.

Examiner

Douglas C. Butler

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

2. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Page 6, line 16 "38" should be changed to --40--.

4. Page 6, line 17 "40" should be charged to --38--.

5. The term "realized" in claim 8, line 2 should be replaced with a more technical term if possible.

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1, line 2 recites "a plurality of spring and shock absorber assemblies" which is interpreted as "a plurality of spring assemblies" and "a plurality of shock

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absorber assemblies" in view of the recitation in claims 1, line 3 of "each of said springs of said assemblies" and "said shock absorbers of said assemblies". The problem is that claim 1, line 3 recites "said springs" which lacks a clear antecedent basis in the claim. Also, "said shock absorbers" of claim 1, line 13 lacks a clear antecedent basis in the claim. Correction is required.

Note that "said shock absorber" of claim 7, lines 1-2 a clear antecedent basis since a plurality of "shock absorbers" are claimed.

8. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The function of the "sensor means" of claim 1, lines 8-9 is not recited. What is sensed? It appears based on the specification that the "sensor means" should be correlated with the "end positions" of the "springs" of claim 1, lines 2-4.

9. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

10. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The "support location table which is separately parameterized for a specific vehicle in accordance with pull and press steps" is not adequately

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described so as to enable an artisan skilled in the spring and shock absorber art to make and use the same. Clarification is requested without introducing new matter.

93 11. The submitted search Report has been considered with translations from STIC provided to applicant. The instant claims do not appear to be the same as the claims listed under a variety of category X and Y re a variety of references. The examiner requests applicant to <sup>clarify</sup>~~clarify~~ the record by commenting upon the German examiner's findings in that the instant examiner does not understand how the references are remotely related to the claims as presented to the foreign examiner.

12. To clarify the record, note the following:

Foreign Ref	Corresponding U.S. Patent
DE 10020518	US 6,26,4181
DE 10052888	US 6382637
DE 10107631	US 2002/0171209 A 1
EPO 0370241	US 4,902,903
DE 10137760	US 2003/0034595 A1

In that there are corresponding equivalents to the above four documents non-English documents (EPO 0370241 is in English), no translations have been ordered.

13. Re published patent application US 2004/0026879 A1, assuming common assignment which appears to be the case, no conflict exists between the instant claims and the claims in the patent application 10/456, 499 which corresponds to the published patent application.

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14. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

15. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by DE 4201464 A1 to Stoll et al.

Note end position sensors 20, 23 in Fig 1. The examiner has requested a full translation of this document and intends to attach the translation to the next office action.

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Exmr. Butler whose telephone number is (703) 308-2575. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Lavinder, can be reached on (703) 308-3421. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

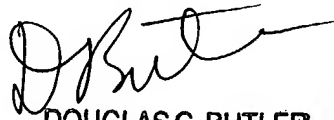
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic  
Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

 5/24/04  
DOUGLAS C. BUTLER  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
AV3683

Butler/vs  
May 19, 2004